

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 157
8 Pages

Tuesday, June 11, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Weather

Fair skies, mild temperatures, and warmer with a high in the upper 80's and a low of 65. Winds will be North-North Easterly at 10 mph.

Mandatory rationing plan may be needed, Clements warns

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements warned today that Texas will have to adopt an even-odd days sales system for gasoline, a minimum purchase to prevent topping off tanks or take other mandatory steps unless people go along with voluntary efforts to cope with fuel shortages.

"We will start out on a basis of pretty easy with sugar on it and hope that everybody will help," Clements said. "If that doesn't work we're going to have to go even-odd day basis and do some other things that will be mandatory in nature." Clements said he will issue a report and some recommendations on the state's fuel shortages later this week and indicated he is concerned at long lines at service stations in Houston.

"Houston may be hurting perhaps more than some areas of the state," Clements said. "We're going to take some steps to ease it somewhat."

Ed Vetter of Dallas, the governor's energy adviser, announced during the weekend the state expects to allocate an additional 16 million gallons of gasoline for urban areas this month.

"We're not manufacturing 1 gallon of gasoline," Clements said. "We're just trying to pass around the misery and make it as equitable as possible."

Under the federal fuel allocation system, 5 percent of the amount of fuel available in a state each month is set aside for state officials to allocate on the basis of special need and hardship. The figure was increased from 3 percent to 5 percent this month in an effort to provide more gasoline for allocation to areas hardest hit by shortages.

Clements declined to go into details of that contingency plan will cover or propose, but spoke more strongly than previously about the need for fuel conservation and other measures to deal with gasoline shortages.

"We're going to have to start thinking in terms of some of the other necessary steps like car pools and setting minimum

amounts for people to be served in filling stations," he said. "Wyyour car is not more than half-empty you can't get gasoline — stop this topping off nonsense."

Clements said although a large portion of the additional allocation state officials control will go to Houston this month, it would be unfair for the state to dedicate a specific portion of the amount of gasoline available in Texas to that city.

"We're going to try to cure spot shortages," Clements said. "There's not anything we're going to do that's going to add 1 gallon of gasoline to our allocation in Texas."

Nick Murphy, administrator of the State Office of Petroleum Allocation, said hardship applications for gasoline allotments jumped from 50 applications a week last month to 700 applications a week this month.

"They are mainly from Houston, some are from Dallas," Murphy said. "Most of these are not people who need gas and don't have any, they're people who have some and need more."

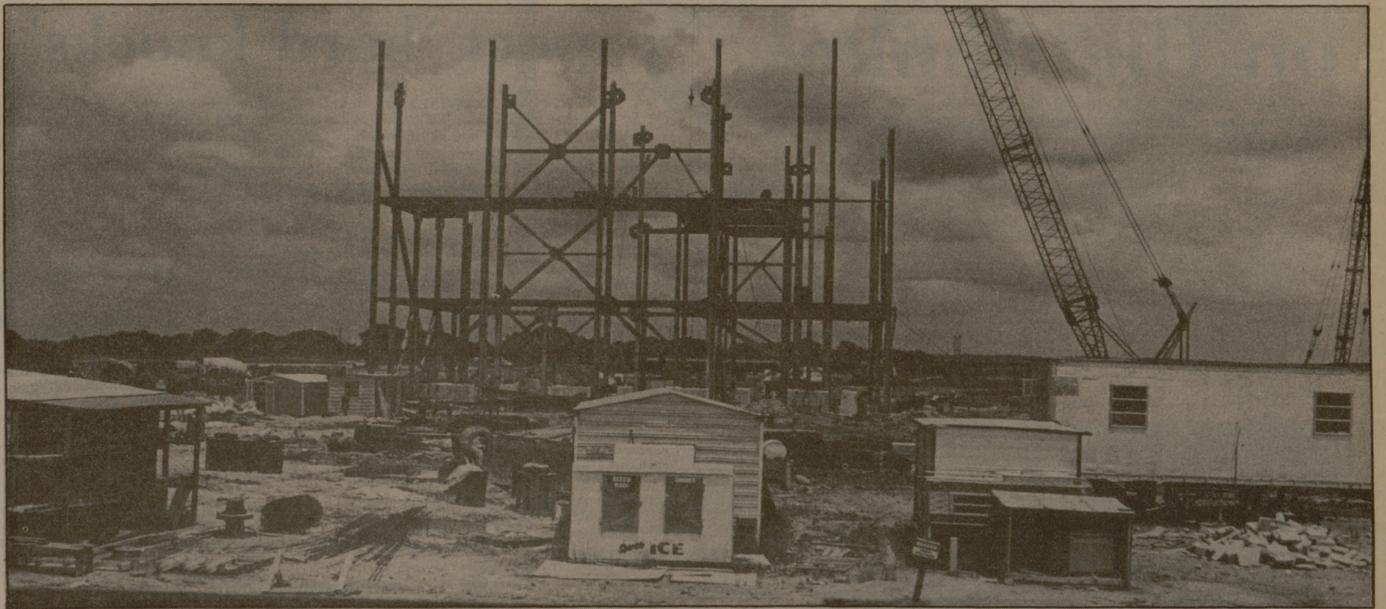
Murphy said the 16 million additional gallons placed under state allocation this month should begin to alleviate supply problems by next week in Houston and other urban areas with long lines.

"This increase has probably only been felt only slightly so far in those areas that are experiencing shortages," Murphy said. "It should begin to show its effects next week."

Clements talked with reporters in an impromptu news conference on his return from Washington where he and other state leaders discussed the energy situation with the Texas congressional delegation.

"We tried to articulate our position," Clements said. "Their response was, 'That's what we've been talking about for the last several years.' I can't say that we accomplished all that we hoped to."

The governor said he traveled on a commercial airline and did not take any highway patrolmen for security on the Washington trip because he was trying to conserve fuel and be as frugal as possible.



TMPA plant under construction

The boiler at the new lignite plant is being constructed in Grimes County. In this plant lignite coal will be burned to produce steam and then electricity. The plant will serve four

cities in the TMPA — Bryan, Denton, Garland, and Greenville. For more on the plant see page 6.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Bryan council tables Lone Star rate hike; increases money for HUD 'target' projects

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

The Bryan City Council Monday night tabled the first reading of an ordinance that would establish natural gas rates in the city by Lone Star Gas Company.

The move came after a public hearing in which a representative of Lone Star repeated the company's request for a total increase of \$716,320.

Mayor Richard Smith said the city recognized the need for a rate increase, but wanted a settlement similar to College Station's. Smith added he preferred a uni-

form rate for Bryan-College Station.

The College Station city council has offered Lone Star an increase of \$318,519 if the company will deal with the two cities separately the issue from going before the Public Utilities Commission.

Smith called a special council meeting for 1:30 p.m. Monday to discuss the rate request further.

In other action, the council voted to increase the grant limits from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for work contracted under the Housing Rehabilitation Act, providing that a specific "target" area for further allocation of such funds is established.

The housing rehabilitation program is a project of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to increase the property value of older neighborhoods, said City Manager Ernest Clark.

Owners and buyers of houses are eligible for HUD grants to be used for renovation and remodeling on the older housing.

Establishing a target area would mean defining a certain geographical area where the majority of the grants could be spent.

Previously, the city has not specified where the funds could be spent.

The target concept is at the request of HUD. Smith said HUD officials prefer to see massive improvement in one area rather than scattered improvements in several areas.

"We're either going to change our philosophy or we're not going to get our money," Smith said about the shift in city policy.

The council also approved the second reading of an ordinance establishing new, lower speed limits on Highway 21 inside the city limits.

In other action, the council: —voted to award a \$196,413 contract for construction of the Richard Lopez fire station to Hamilton-Woodard of Bryan. The contract calls for a work period of 240 calendar days.

—awarded \$74,642 in contracts for machinery ranging from batteries for the Atkins Power Plant to a digging machinery for the Electrical Distribution Department.

Summer is here?!?

A&M meteorologist says 'no rain'

By ROBIN THOMPSON
Battalion Staff

It stopped raining. Not for a few hours or a few days, but at least for a few weeks. College Station and Bryan will finally have hot and dry summer-type weather say meteorologists at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Kenneth Brundidge, head of Meteorology at Texas A&M, said the heavy spring rains were caused by a combination of two factors; a large moist air mass and slow-moving upper level systems or "troughs".

These troughs, Brundidge said, kept the moisture over College Station and most of Texas until they were finally replaced last week by higher "ridges" which allowed the moisture to rise and move on.

The troughs brought more rain than the Brazos Valley has seen in years.

The total amount of precipitation this year in College Station for the period from

January to May was 28.29 inches.

Greg Ainsworth, a graduate student who works in the State Climatologist Office, said that according to his research, this has been the highest amount for that period since 1914.

The average annual amount for May alone in College Station is 4.7 inches but Ainsworth said this year May received 10.13 inches.

Although the rain appears to have moved on, at least temporarily, most folks around College Station will probably not soon forget the "flood of '79."

Some effects of the rain are obvious, like the numerous potholes and unrepaired streets.

George Ford, director of public works in College Station said "Everything has slowed down because of the rain."

Even the car wash business has slowed down. Billy Sharp who works at the Robo Car Wash in Bryan said business during

the rains was "not good."

He said that during the rain, business went from washing an average of 150 cars a day to about 80 cars a day.

Construction on the A&M campus has been slowed significantly by the rain, according to John Merchant, manager of the construction division of system facilities.

The Academic Agency Building, due to be completed in May of 1981 is behind 60 days because when the workers were trying to lay the foundation in the ground, the rains came, he said.

However, the new modular dorms are on schedule because they were fabricated in San Antonio, Merchant said.

But the construction of Kyle Field did not escape delay, and a special effort is being made to make up about three lost weeks, he said.

"We have two ten-hour shifts seven days a week."

He said good weather is what is needed

most to make up for the lost time.

"If we get 60 days of good weather, we'll be back on schedule," he said.

Will he get those 60 days? Brundidge was optimistic but would make no promises. "I think it's fairly safe to say we will have hot and dry weather," he said, "but I will not make that as a solid prediction."

John "Duke" Wayne dies of cancer at 72

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — John Wayne, the American Hero, died of cancer Monday. He was 72 and fought for his life until the very end.

The rugged actor, who had licked the "Big C" in 1964, died at UCLA Medical Center "with all of his children at his side," said administrator Bernard Strohm.

"He had been in considerable pain since Saturday," Strohm told reporters, but "would not take much medication. He wanted to be awake when he died. He would tolerate the pain just to be near his family."

"The Duke," hospitalized since May 1 in his latest battle with cancer, lapsed into a coma Monday and died at 5:35 p.m. PDT, Strohm said. He was unconscious when he died.

Comedian Bob Hope, when told of Wayne's death, said, "We knew he was in tough shape, but we kept our hopes up, because he had pulled through so many times before."

"John's death is a great loss, but he made a lot of important pictures that will live on and on. He was a unique presence and in those pictures we will always know his memory."

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., a friend of Wayne for 50 years, said, "He was just one hell of a guy, a hell of a man. I will miss him. So will America."

Strohm said Wayne's burial will be private and his family has asked that instead of flowers donations be made to the John Wayne Memorial Fund at the UCLA Medical Center. Strohm did not say when the funeral will be held.

As it became clear death was approaching for the rugged, rumbling-voiced "Duke," he was given many honors.

Congress and President Carter authorized a special gold medal of the

kind given to such national figures as the Wright brothers.

He made his final public appearance at the Academy Awards ceremony in April, drawing an emotional standing ovation from his peers when he strode out to present the Oscar for best picture.

His pictures made him one of the great box office draws of all time and of his critics' complaints of the lack of versatility in his performances Wayne was fond of saying: "Nobody likes my acting but the public."

Wayne made his first movie in 1931 and while he starred in such epic films as "Stagecoach," "Back to Bataan," "Red River," "The Quiet Man" and "The Green Berets," he won his first Academy Award playing Rooster Cogburn in "True Grit."

"Hell, I should have put on that eye patch 20 years ago," the 6-foot-4 inch "Duke" commented as he picked up his Oscar in 1970. He had been nominated once before for "Sands of Iwo Jima."

Wayne underwent surgery in 1964 for lung cancer and declared afterward, "I've got the Big C licked." Associates tried to keep his ailment a secret lest it hurt his image as a virile hero. But Wayne himself disclosed the surgery, saying the public should know that cancer could be detected and possibly halted in its early stages.

The chairman of the board of the American Cancer Society, U.S. District Judge Joseph Young of Baltimore, commented just after Wayne's death.

"In his long and continuing battle against cancer, John Wayne provided inspiration to patients throughout the world. The hope he instilled in their hearts will continue to live."

In April 1978, he underwent successful open-heart surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for

replacement of a defective mitral valve at the bottom of his heart.

Then on March 2 of this year, he underwent his third operation, this one to remove an intestinal obstruction caused by post-surgical adhesions.

Wayne withstood the surgery well and was out of intensive care in little more than a day and then moved to the same room he occupied at the UCLA Medical Center when physicians fashioned a new stomach for him from intestinal tissue.

Wayne was born Marion Michael Morrison in Winterset, Iowa, on May 26, 1907. His father, a pharmacist, moved the family to California six years later.

After leaving college where he played football, Wayne worked at the old Fox Film Corp. as a prop man. He came to the attention of director John Ford while taking a turn as a stunt man and the two became close friends.

His first part was in a flop, "The Big Trail," in 1931. He made an endless series of B movies for Republic Studios until 1938 when Ford picked him for "Stagecoach," one of the finest Westerns ever made.

From that time on, he was constantly on the big screens.

Wayne's personal life included three wives, all Latins. The first was Josephine Saenz, the mother of four of his seven children — Michael, Toni, Patrick and Melinda. They were divorced in 1946.

He married actress Esperanza Baur the same year. They were divorced seven years later.

Wayne married Peruvian beauty Pilar Palette in November 1954 and they separated in 1973. They were the parents of Aissa, John Ethan and Marisa.



Peek-a-boo!

Four-year-old Disya Boonkerd peers shyly from the edge of Cain Pool last Thursday afternoon. His father, Nantakorn, a graduate

student in soil and crop sciences and is from Thailand.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill